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5 April 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Japan - South Korea: The draft agreements for a treaty settlement between Japan and South Korea, initialed on 3 April, represent a breakthrough in the 14-year-old negotiations, but serious obstacles remain before final ratification.

The drafts cover the three outstanding issues. As a final settlement of Korean property claims incurred during the Japanese occupation, Tokyo would extend a total of \$800 million in grants, long-term loans and commercial credits. An agreement has been reached on fishing rights in the long-disputed waters off Korea. The third agreement projects a resolution of the complex legal status of the half-million Korean residents of Japan.

Some details remain to be worked out before a final draft can be prepared, but the foreign ministers hope to have it ready for signing prior to President Pak's mid-May visit to Washington. Ratification by the parliaments of the two countries is unlikely before June.

The chief opposition parties in the two countries are likely to wage a last-ditch struggle against the settlement. In South Korea, the opposition leader has been touring the country denouncing the "sell out" to Korea's ancient enemy and organized student opposition of the type that forced a suspension of negotiations last year is beginning to appear.

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The Japan Socialist Party, with strong trade union and Communist support, is committed to oppose any Korean settlement that does not include North Korea and pave the way for reunification. Elements among Japanese conservatives, dissatisfied with various phases of the projected settlement, may also attack the treaty provisions.

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Yemen: Tension is high in Yemen following the assassination of a popular anti-Egyptian leader.

Muhammad al-Zubayri, a former republican deputy premier who had been active in the "Third Force," was assassinated on 1 April while returning from a meeting in northern Yemen with other important anti-Egyptian republican leaders. His assassins have not yet been identified. However, speculation is rife in republican cities that the murder may have been instigated by the Egyptians or the republican government, although both blame the royalists.

The urban population is tense, and important tribal leaders are gathering to await identification of the killers amid calls for vengeance by religious leaders in the mosques.

The killing, coming at a time when the Egyptians are losing military control in southeast Yemen and when they are taking increasingly strong reprisals against the Yemeni populace, may result in a further erosion of the Egyptian political position in Yemen.

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West Germany - Israel: Bundestag deputy Kurt Birrenbach will return to Israel this week to complete arrangements for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic and Israel. A Bonn Foreign Ministry official told a US Embassy officer that the Germans hope to defer the actual formalization of the agreement as long as possible to permit the Arabs to "cool off." He commented that, all in all, things did not seem to be going quite as badly in the Middle East as expected, but Bonn still feels that it is "walking on eggs."

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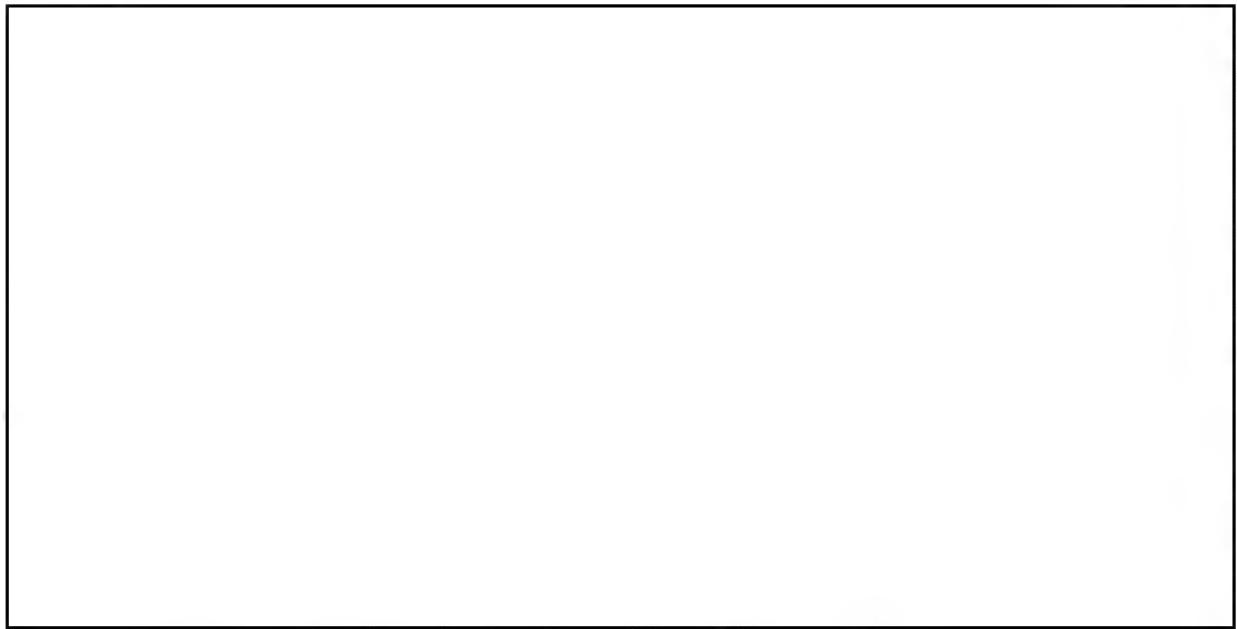
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Bolivia: The threat of nationwide strikes in nationalized industries has diminished at least temporarily. On 1 April, the petroleum workers, faced with a loss of pay following a government ruling that their strike was illegal, returned to work with the agreement that a definite solution to their wage demands be found in the near future. Labor unrest in the tin mines has also subsided as a result of apparent government concessions to demands for higher wages by the miners. [Redacted]

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